



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

November 18, 2005

Mr. R. David Paulison
Acting Director
Federal /Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, D. C. 20202

Through: Edward G. Buikema
Regional Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region V
563 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605-1521

Through: Mr. Brad Gair
Federal Coordinating Officer
DR-1612-IN

Dear Director Paulison:

As you are aware, the State of Indiana recently sustained another serious round of tornadoes and severe weather. On November 15, 2005, a series of tornadoes, extremely damaging winds, severe thunderstorms and flooding swept through the state. This weather event spawned an F-1 tornado in the Grant County area, and F-3 tornadoes in Daviess, Martin and Shelby Counties. Accompanying the tornadoes were damaging winds of more than 80 mph and rainfall reports of up to 10 inches in certain areas of the State. The weather system that swept through Indiana was part of a large series of storms and tornadoes that affected other nearby states.

This weather event resulted in the death of a 17 year old female, numerous injuries (approximately 40), and significant damage to homes, businesses and multi-family units. Additionally, nearly 1,000 livestock (horses, cattle and hogs) were also killed. This event occurred within just a few days of the November 6, 2005 tornadoes that resulted in a Major Disaster Declaration for Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties and the implementation of FEMA's Individual Assistance Program, as well as a request for the implementation of FEMA's Public Assistance Program that is presently being reviewed by your staff.

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These two events, although separated by only a few days, were the result of a persistent weather pattern that brought abnormally warm and humid temperatures to Indiana from before the occurrence of the first event through the most recent event. The National Weather Service (NWS) has provided a description of the cause of both events which clearly links the two events as a "multi-week persistence of the larger scale weather pattern." This NWS statement is provided as an attachment to this letter. It is worth noting that the NWS states that this persistent weather pattern ended with the significant weather event that swept through the State on November 15, 2005.

On November 16, 2005, I requested that a federal, state and local preliminary damage assessment be conducted to determine the damages. Preliminary damage assessments for Individual Assistance were conducted in the affected counties of Daviess on November 17th and Shelby on November 18th. The results of these surveys indicate that 54 homes were destroyed; 27 suffered major damage; 30 sustained minor damage with an additional 24 homes affected.

Damages were also recorded in Bartholomew, Brown, Decatur, Gibson, Grant, Greene, Lawrence, Martin and Vanderburgh Counties. The results of local surveys indicate that 14 homes were destroyed, nine sustained major damage and one suffered minor damage. Of the total 159 damaged homes, 139 are uninhabitable. The victims of these storms are sheltered with family or friends at this time.

Daviess County suffered the highest concentration of damages with 51 homes destroyed, 22 suffering major damage and 26 sustaining minor damage. In Daviess County, the lack of personal insurance reached unprecedented levels for a single county never before seen in a disaster in the state (up to 80% uninsured).

Also in Daviess County, twenty-two businesses suffered either major damage or were destroyed. Among the destroyed were three major employers within the county, the Swartzentruber Sawmill, that employed 25 to 30 persons, K & K Industries (a wooden truss factory) that employed 125 persons, and Knepp Cabinets that employed another 30 persons.

Additionally, Howard County reported that, in the Tall Timbers Mobile Home Park in Kokomo, two mobile homes were destroyed and two other mobile homes received major damage as a result of the storms of November 6.

After personally touring the areas with the most significant damage and speaking with those who were directly affected, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

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Therefore, I am requesting that the incident period be re-opened and that the following Indiana counties be added to FEMA-DR-1612-IN and, therefore, be made eligible for the Individual Assistance Program, including Disaster Housing, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Individual and Households Programs and Other Needs Assistance, as well as Small Business Administration disaster loans: Bartholomew, Brown, Daviess, Decatur, Gibson, Grant, Greene, Howard, Lawrence Martin, and Shelby.

In response to the November 15th event, I declared a State of Disaster Emergency in accordance with Indiana Code 10-14-3-12 and, again, implemented the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security, already activated since November 6, continued to provide the overall coordination for the State's immediate response.

The Indiana Department of Transportation provided and continues to provide clearance of the tremendous amounts of debris generated by the storms. They are providing this assistance in support of the local highway departments in the affected areas.

The Indiana State Police are providing law enforcement support in conjunction with local sheriffs and police departments. Indiana Department of Natural Resources conservation officers also provided similar assistance in the overall effort.

The State Department of Animal Health coordinated the identification and disposal of animal carcasses and other veterinary services. The Utility Regulatory Commission monitored power outages throughout the state.

Local emergency medical services and fire departments responded immediately to provide immediate medical care and perform search and rescue efforts in the most seriously affected areas.

The non-profit organization, Indiana Volunteers Active in Disasters (INVOAD), is coordinating volunteer resources.

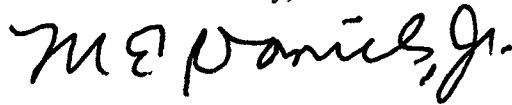
As stated in my previous letter pertaining to DR-1612, I certify that for this major disaster, the state and local governments will assume the applicable non-federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

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As the letter from NWS makes clear, the devastating damage from this week's storms was caused by the same persistent weather pattern that spawned the November 6, 2005 tornadoes in southwestern Indiana. It is only fair and reasonable that the persons affected by this latest event be afforded the same full range of federal disaster assistance as those already being provided for under DR-1612-IN.

I look forward to your earliest possible reply in order to expedite assistance to those Hoosiers that were affected in this latest series of storms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M E Daniels, Jr." in a cursive style.

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor of Indiana

STATE OF INDIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

EXECUTIVE ORDER 05-34

FOR: DECLARING A DISASTER EMERGENCY IN THE STATE OF INDIANA DUE TO
TORNADOES, SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS, EXTREMELY HIGH WINDS AND FLOODING

TO ALL TO WHO THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS;

WHEREAS, multiple tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, extremely high
winds and flooding swept through parts of Indiana on November 15, 2005,

WHEREAS, at least one Hoosier has been killed and numerous have been injured as a
result of these storms;

WHEREAS, significant damage has been inflicted upon homes, businesses and private
and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security has mobilized and deployed
all available state resources to assist the victims, local officials and
political subdivisions affected by this disaster.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of
the State of Indiana, do hereby


DECLARE, that a state of disaster emergency exists in Indiana; and

ORDER the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, having already implemented
the State Emergency Plan, to provide needed emergency services to the
damaged areas of Indiana impacted by the storms and to coordinate
assistance with appropriate federal and state agencies.

This declaration of disaster emergency was in effect beginning November 15, 2005
and continues.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Mitchell
E. Daniels, Jr., have hereunto set my hand
and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of
the State of Indiana on this 17th day of
November, 2005.


Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor of Indiana

ATTEST:


Todd Rokita
Secretary of State



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

November 18, 2005

David R. Tucek *David R. Tucek*
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
National Weather Service, Indianapolis

The Weather Pattern Leading to the Indiana Tornadoes of November 2005

The Midwestern States experienced an unusually volatile, extended weather pattern in November 2005 which resulted in significant tornado outbreaks impacting Indiana and nearby states. A vigorous jet stream pattern persisted during the first half of November steering several strong low pressure systems from the Pacific Northwest towards the Lower Ohio Valley and Southern Great Lakes. This pattern's weather systems blasted the Northwestern United States with blizzards and further intensified to cause strong tornadoes over the Midwest. As the persistent pattern's weather systems moved into the central United States they brought abnormally warm and humid weather with temperatures up to 20 degrees warmer than normal. The anomalous temperature and humidity were fuel while abnormally strong, shearing winds from the surface to the jet stream level served to ignite the fuel as tornado and downburst producing thunderstorms.

The end result of the large scale weather pattern was rapidly strengthening, intense low pressure systems that maximized their destructive force over Indiana. Strongly rotating supercell thunderstorms produced an F3 tornado in the Evansville area November 6, impacting Vanderburgh, Warrick and Spencer Counties. Supercell thunderstorms November 15 also produced an F3 tornado in Daviess and Martin counties, an F3 tornado in Bartholomew and Shelby Counties, and an F1 tornado in Grant County. Tornado or downburst damage also occurred November 15 in the path of the Daviess-Martin storm over parts of Greene and Lawrence Counties. Significant straight-line wind damage also occurred in Gibson County from a microburst on November 15. Other straight-line wind damage also occurred across many other counties in Indiana both on November 6 and November 15.

Tornadoes in Indiana during November are not unusual. In fact, autumn is a secondary tornado season for Indiana with multi-tornado outbreaks having occurred in 1965, 1967, and 1992. However, what was unprecedented in 2005 was the multi-week persistence of the larger scale weather pattern that resulted in all but one tornado being F3 intensity, each F3 with winds near 200 mph, occurring only nine days apart. No previous year in Indiana produced as strong of tornadoes with so few days intervening. The unusually warm pattern broke after the November 15 tornadoes.

